

Minutes of the August 25, 2015 Patton Homestead Directors

Attending: Carin Kale, John McWane, Bill Burrridge

Carin opened the meeting @ 4:10. The meeting was focused on Lois Honegger, the city of Newburyport's cultural affairs administrator.

While waiting for Lois to arrive at 4:30 the board discussed the following;

Carin said that we will need clarification from the BOS in making these decisions. She said that we should ask Donna Brewer(Town Counsel) how to structure funds and how we can get the authority to use them.

John suggested that we speak with Donna about the necessary steps that we need to take to procure a Facilities Grant.

Bill brought up the parking area for the Patton Estate. Carin mentioned a land swap or a right of way to get the necessary space for a road to the lot. John said that a land swap or a right of way would have to go to a town vote. This would set us back in terms of time. Carin thought about inviting Bill Redford to a meeting and get his take on this situation.

Carin asked Bill to gather information from the Historic District as to what we need to do to get the PHS historic values for the possibilities of CPC funding.

Lois Honegger arrived on time and gave a brief overview of her jobs as the director of cultural affairs, assistant to the Mayor and Vice President of the Firehouse theater(a non-profit).

Firehouse: A 501-C3 run by elected directors. They do a lot of fundraising to maintain a \$600,000 budget. They have sold naming rights to sections of the theater, entertained people of wealth, and have been awarded several grants. The positives of a 501-C3 are that they are self sustaining and do not have to answer to the city. The cons are that they must maintain (through lease) a very large budget. Lois feels that the pros outweigh the cons significantly. She feels strongly about the advantages of a 501-C3.

Cultural Affairs: The city of Newburyport is a cultural district. They had to apply for a cultural designation through the state to obtain funding . There are many historic properties in the city of Newburyport and maintaining them takes much money, thus the need for grants.

Suggestions: Lois had a few suggestions for the PHS. First, before we do any significant improvements, we could host a cocktail party for people of wealth and military background to show our plans and seek funding. Explain our goals and objectives before the work is done. She offered her help in getting entertainment(singer, piano player etc) and sharing her expertise in dealing with these events. Second, she has offered to come back to as many meetings as we desire her to. Third, if we would like to travel to Newburyport she will give us a tour of relevant surroundings.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15.